



# United States Department of the Interior

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To: California Desert District Manager, All Field Managers  
*Attention: Managers, Supervisors and Safety Officers*

From: State Director

Subject: Hazard Communications Plan

The attached Hazard Communications (HazCom) Plan provides a template for the development of local plans throughout BLM California, as required by OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200. Each Field Office is required to develop and maintain an up-to-date HazCom Plan for each occupied facility, such as administrative offices, fire stations, visitor centers, or warehouses not covered by an office plan.

Many offices have already complied with this OSHA Standard. For those that have not, the attached CASO plan is largely generic and should require very little change to adapt to other facilities. Offices that still need to develop a written plan are encouraged to use this example, making changes appropriate for your respective operations.

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all training requirements associated with these plans are satisfied. This includes initial orientation training for any employees arriving at a new duty station, job-specific training, and training associated with non-routine tasks. If you require assistance with training, your resident Safety Officer will be available to offer guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Anger, State Safety Manager @ (916) 978-4521.

Signed by:  
James Wesley Abbott  
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management

1 Attachment:  
Hazard Communication Plan (9 pp)

# HAZARD COMMUNICATION PLAN

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# **Hazard Communication & Chemical Safety**

## **BLM - CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE**

### ***Purpose***

This document serves as the California State Office's Hazard Communication Program. It provides detailed safety guidelines and instructions for receipt, use and storage of chemicals at our facility by employees (PFT, Temp, Term & volunteers, etc.) and contractors. Reference: OSHA Standard 1910.1200

### ***Responsibilities***

#### **Management**

1. Ensure compliance with this program
2. Conduct immediate corrective action for deficiencies found in the program
3. Maintain an effective Hazard Communication training program
4. Make this plan available to employees or their designated representative

#### **Shipping & Receiving Manager**

1. Ensure all received containers are properly labeled and that labels are not removed or defaced
2. Ensure all shipped containers are properly labeled
3. Ensure shipping department employees are properly trained in spill response
4. Ensure received Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are properly distributed

#### **Purchasing Agent**

1. Obtain, from the manufacturer, MSDS for chemicals purchased from retail sources

#### **Safety Manager/Safety Officer**

1. Maintain a list of hazardous chemicals using the identity that is referenced on the MSDS
2. Monitor the effectiveness of the program
3. Conduct annual audit of the program
4. Monitor employee training to ensure effectiveness
5. Keep management informed of necessary changes
6. Ensure MSDSs are available as required
7. Monitor facility for proper use, storage and labeling of chemicals
8. Ensure MSDS are available for emergency medical personnel when treating exposed employees
9. Provide information, as requested, concerning health effects and exposure symptoms listed on MSDSs

#### **Supervisors**

1. Comply with all specific requirements of the program
2. Provide specific chemical safety training for assigned employees
3. Ensure chemicals are properly used stored & labeled
4. Ensure only the minimum amount necessary is kept at work stations
5. Ensure up to date MSDS are readily accessible to all employees on all shifts

### **Employees**

1. Comply with chemical safety requirements of this program
2. Report any problems with storage or use of chemicals
3. Immediately report spills of suspected spills of chemicals
4. Use only those chemicals for which they have been trained
5. Use chemicals only for specific assigned tasks in the proper manner

### **Contractors**

1. Comply with all aspects of this program
2. Coordinate information with the Safety Manager
3. Ensure Contractor employees are properly trained
4. Notify the Safety Manager before bringing any chemicals into BLM property or facilities. Notification to all employees of new or hazardous chemicals arriving on BLM property will be made by management.
5. Monitor and ensure proper storage and use of chemicals by Contractor employees

## ***General Program Information***

**This written Hazard Communication Plan (HAZCOM)** has been developed based on OSHA Hazard Communication Standard and consists of the following elements:

1. Identification of Hazardous Materials
2. Product Warning Labels
3. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
4. Written Hazard Communication Program
5. Effective Employee Training

Some chemicals are explosive, corrosive, flammable, or toxic. Other chemicals are relatively safe to use and store but may become dangerous when they interact with other substances. To avoid injury and/or property damage, persons who handle chemicals in any area of the California State Office must understand the hazardous properties of the chemicals. Before using a specific chemical, safe handling methods and health hazards must always be reviewed. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that the equipment needed to work safely with chemicals is accessible and maintained for all employees on all shifts.

## ***Employee Training***

### ***Initial Orientation Training (all employees new to their duty station)***

All new employees shall receive safety orientation training covering the elements of the HAZCOM and Right to Know Program. This training will consist of general training covering:

1. Location and availability of the written Hazard Communication Program
2. Location and availability of the List of Chemicals used in the workplace
3. Methods and observation used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the workplace.
4. The specific physical and health hazard of all chemicals in the workplace
5. Specific control measures for protection from physical or health hazards
6. Explanation of the chemical labeling system
7. Location and use of MSDS

This orientation training can be provided in a classroom setting or staff meeting, or presented in video/CD ROM format (available from State Safety Officer). The training is to be performed by knowledgeable managers and/or supervisors. All training shall be documented and retained electronically or by hardcopy.

### ***Job Specific Training***

Employees will receive on the job training from their supervisor. This training will cover the proper use, inspection and storage of necessary personal protective equipment and chemical safety training for the specific chemicals they will be using or working around.

### ***Immediate On-the-Spot Training***

This training will be conducted by supervisors for any employee who requests additional information or exhibits a lack of understanding of the safety requirements.

### ***Non-Routine Tasks Training***

A knowledgeable supervisor or Safety Officer will provide specific safety training for Employees engaged in or affected by non-routine tasks (as described in the following section) and will document the training using the *Chemical Safety Training Checklist* form which shall be marked "**Non-Routine Task Training**".

## **Non-Routine Tasks**

Non-routine tasks are defined as working on, near, or with unlabeled piping, unlabeled containers of an unknown substance, confined space entry where a hazardous substance may be present and/or a one-time task using a hazardous substance differently than intended (example: using a solvent to remove stains from tile floors).

### **Steps for Non-Routine Tasks:**

- Step 1: Hazard Determination
- Step 2: Determine Precautions
- Step 3: Specific Training & Documentation
- Step 4: Perform Task

All non-routine tasks will be evaluated by the appropriate Supervisor and Safety Officer before the task commences to determine all hazards present. This determination will be made using quantitative/qualitative analysis (air sampling, substance identification/analysis, etc., as applicable).

Once the hazard determination is made, the appropriate Supervisor and Safety Officer will determine the necessary precautions needed to either remove the hazard, change to a non-hazard, or protect from the hazard (use of personal protective equipment) to safeguard the Employees present.

## **Off-Site Use or Transportation of Chemicals**

An MSDS will be provided to employees for each chemical and each occurrence of use or transport away from the California State Office facilities. All State and Federal DOT Regulations will be followed including use of certified containers, labeling & marking, securing of containers and employee training.

# ***General Chemical Safety***

**Assume all chemicals are hazardous.** The number of hazardous chemicals and the number of reactions between them is so large that prior knowledge of all potential hazards cannot be assumed. Use chemicals in as small quantities as possible to minimize exposure and reduce possible harmful effects.

**The following general safety rules shall be observed when working with chemicals:**

1. Read and understand the Material Safety Data Sheets.
2. Keep the work area clean and orderly.
3. Use the necessary safety equipment.
4. Carefully label every container with the identity of its contents and appropriate hazard warnings.
5. Store incompatible chemicals in separate areas.
6. Substitute less toxic materials whenever possible.
7. Limit the volume of volatile or flammable material to the minimum needed for short operation periods.
8. Provide means of containing the material if equipment or containers should break or spill their contents.

## ***Task Evaluation***

Each task that requires the use of chemicals should be evaluated to determine the potential hazards associated with the work. This hazard evaluation must include the chemical or combination of chemicals that will be used in the work, as well as other materials that will be used near the work. If a malfunction during the operation has the potential to cause serious injury or property damage, a Safe Operational Procedure (SOP) should be prepared and followed. Operations must be planned to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes.

## ***Chemical Storage***

The separation of chemicals (solids or liquids) during storage is necessary to reduce the possibility of unwanted chemical reactions caused by accidental mixing. Explosives should be stored separately outdoors. Use either distance or barriers (e.g., trays) to isolate chemicals into the following groups:

1. Flammable Liquids: store in approved flammable storage lockers.
2. Acids: store in approved storage lockers or shelves but separate from all flammables. Store acids at least 20 feet from other hazardous materials.
3. Bases: do not store bases with acids or any other material
4. Other liquids: ensure other liquids are not incompatible with any other chemical in the same storage location. Store incompatible materials at least 20 feet apart from each other.
5. Lips, strips, or bars are to be installed across the width of storage shelves to restrain the chemicals in case of earthquake.

Chemicals will not be stored in the same refrigerator used for food storage. Refrigerators used for storing chemicals must be appropriately identified by a label on the door.

## ***Container Labels***

It is extremely important that all containers of chemicals are properly labeled. This includes every type of container from a 5000 gallon storage tank to a spray bottle of degreaser. The following requirements apply:

1. All containers will have the appropriate label, tag or marking prominently displayed that indicates the identity, safety and health hazards. The label used to identify the product must be identical to the product name on the MSDS.
2. Portable containers which contain a small amount of chemical need not be labeled if they are used immediately during that shift, but must be under the strict control of the employee using the product.
3. All warning labels, tags, etc., must be maintained in a legible condition and not be defaced.
4. Incoming chemicals are to be checked for proper labeling.

## ***Emergencies and Spills***

In case of an emergency, implement the proper Emergency Action Plan

1. Evacuate people from the area.
2. Isolate the area.
3. If the material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
4. Only personnel specifically trained in emergency response are permitted to participate in chemical emergency procedures beyond those required to evacuate the area.
5. Call for Emergency Response Team assistance if required.

## ***Housekeeping***

1. Maintain the smallest possible inventory of chemicals to meet immediate needs.
2. Periodically review stock of chemicals on hand.
3. Ensure that storage areas, or equipment containing large quantities of chemicals, are secure from accidental spills.
4. Rinse emptied bottles that contain acids or inflammable solvents before disposal.
5. Recycle unused laboratory chemicals wherever possible.
6. **DO NOT** Place hazardous chemicals in salvage or garbage receptacles.
7. **DO NOT** Pour chemicals onto the ground.
8. **DO NOT** Dispose of chemicals through the storm drain system.
9. **DO NOT** Dispose of highly toxic, malodorous chemicals down sinks or sewer drains.

## ***Contractors***

All outside contractors working inside California State Office Facilities are required to follow the requirements of this program. The CSO will provide Contractors information on:

1. Location of MSDS
2. Precautions to be taken to protect contractor employees. Potential exposure to hazardous substances
3. Chemicals used in or stored in areas where they will be working
4. Location and availability of Material Safety Data Sheets
5. Recommended Personal Protective Equipment
6. Labeling system for chemicals.

Note: The COR/PI shall perform these duties.

## **MSDS Information**

**Material Safety Data Sheets** are provided by the chemical manufacturer to provide additional information concerning safe use of the product. Each MSDS provides:

1. Common Name and Chemical Name of the material
2. Name, address and phone number of the manufacturer
3. Emergency phone numbers for immediate hazard information
4. Date the MSDS was last updated
5. Listing of hazardous ingredients
6. Chemical hazards of the material
7. Information for identification of chemical and physical properties

## **Information Chemical Users must know**

### **Fire and/or Explosion Information**

1. Material Flash Point, auto-ignition temperature and upper/lower flammability limits
2. Proper fire extinguishing agents to be used
3. Fire fighting techniques
4. Any unusual fire or explosive hazards

### **Chemical Reaction Information**

1. Stability of Chemical
2. Conditions and other materials which can cause reactions with the chemical
3. Dangerous substances that can be produced when the chemical reacts

### **Control Measures**

1. Engineering Controls required for safe product use
2. Personal protective equipment required for use of product
3. Safe storage requirements and guidelines
4. Safe handling procedures

### **Health Hazards**

1. Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and Threshold Limit Value (TLV)
2. Acute or Chronic symptoms of exposure
3. Main routes of entry into the body
4. Medical conditions that can be made worse by exposure
5. Cancer causing properties if any
6. Emergency and First Aid treatments

### **Spill & Leak Procedures**

1. Clean up techniques
2. Personal Protective Equipment to be used during cleanup
3. Disposal of waste & cleanup material

## **Employee Use of MSDS**

**For MSDS use to be effective, employees must:**

1. Know the location of the MSDS
2. Understand the major points for each chemical
3. Check MSDS when more information is needed or questions arise
4. Be able to quickly locate the emergency information on the MSDS
5. Follow the safety practices provided on the MSDS
6. Notify his/her supervisor if the MSDS is lost, misplaced or illegible. The supervisor shall be responsible for immediate replacement.



## **Definitions –**

**Chemical:** any element, chemical compound or mixture of elements and/or compounds.

**Combustible liquid:** means any liquid having a flash point at or above 100 deg. F (37.8 deg. C), but below 200 deg. F (93.3 deg. C), except any mixture having components with flash points of 200 deg. F (93.3 deg. C), or higher, the total volume of which make up 99 percent or more of the total volume of the mixture.

**Compressed gas:** any compound that exhibits:

1. A gas or mixture of gases having, in a container, an absolute pressure exceeding 40 psi at 70 deg. F.
2. A gas or mixture of gases having, in a container, an absolute pressure exceeding 104 psi at 130 deg. F. regardless of the pressure at 70 deg. F.
3. A liquid having a vapor pressure exceeding 40 psi at 100 deg. F.

**Container:** any bag, barrel, bottle, box, can, cylinder, drum, reaction vessel, storage tank, or the like that contains a hazardous chemical. For purposes of this section, pipes or piping systems, and engines, fuel tanks, or other operating systems in a vehicle, are not considered to be containers.

**Designated representative:** any individual or organization to whom an employee gives written authorization to exercise such employee's rights under this section. A recognized or certified collective bargaining agent shall be treated automatically as a designated representative without regard to written employee authorization.

**Employee:** a worker who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals under normal operating conditions or in foreseeable emergencies. Workers such as office workers or staff assistants who encounter hazardous chemicals only in non-routine, isolated instances are not covered.

**Employer:** a person engaged in a business where chemicals are either used, distributed, or are produced for use or distribution, including a contractor or subcontractor.

**Explosive:** a chemical that causes a sudden, almost instantaneous release of pressure, gas, and heat when subjected to sudden shock, pressure, or high temperature.

**Exposure or exposed:** an employee is subjected in the course of employment to a chemical that is a physical or health hazard, and includes potential (e.g. accidental or possible) exposure. Subjected in terms of health hazards includes any route of entry (e.g. inhalation, ingestion, skin contact or absorption.)

**Flammable:** a chemical that falls into one of the following categories:

1. **"Aerosol, flammable"** means an aerosol that yields a flame projection exceeding 18 inches at full valve opening, or a flashback (a flame extending back to the valve) at any degree of valve opening;
2. **"Gas, flammable"** means: (A) A gas that, at ambient temperature and pressure, forms a flammable mixture with air at a concentration of thirteen (13) percent by volume or less; or (B) A gas that, at ambient temperature and pressure, forms a range of flammable mixtures with air wider than twelve (12) percent by volume, regardless of the lower limit;
3. **"Liquid, flammable"** means: any liquid having a flash point below 100 deg. F., except any mixture having components with flash points of 100 deg. F. or higher, the total of which make up 99 percent or more of the total volume of the mixture.

4. **"Solid, flammable"** means: a solid, other than a blasting agent or explosive as defined in 1910.109(a), that is liable to cause fire through friction, absorption of moisture, spontaneous chemical change, or retained heat from manufacturing or processing, or which can be ignited readily and when ignited burns so vigorously and persistently as to create a serious hazard. A chemical shall be considered to be a flammable solid if it ignites and burns with a self-sustained flame at a rate greater than one-tenth of an inch per second along its major axis.

**Flash point:** the minimum temperature at which a liquid gives off a vapor in sufficient concentration to ignite.

**Hazardous chemical:** any chemical which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.

**Hazard warning:** any words, pictures, symbols, or combination appearing on a label or other appropriate form of warning which convey the specific physical and health hazard(s), including target organ effects, of the chemical(s) in the container(s). (See the definitions for "physical hazard" and "health hazard" to determine the hazards which must be covered.)

**Health hazard:** a chemical for which there is evidence that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term "health hazard" includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system, and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

**Identity:** any chemical or common name which is indicated on the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the chemical. The identity used shall permit cross-references to be made among the required list of hazardous chemicals, the label and the MSDS.

**Immediate use:** the hazardous chemical will be under the control of and used only by the person who transfers it from a labeled container and only within the work shift in which it is transferred.

**Label:** any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on or affixed to containers of hazardous chemicals.

**Material safety data sheet (MSDS):** written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical which is prepared in accordance with OSHA Standard 1910.1200 requirements.

**Mixture:** any combination of two or more chemicals if the combination is not, in whole or in part, the result of a chemical reaction.

**Oxidizer:** means a chemical other than a blasting agent or explosive as defined in 1910.109(a), that initiates or promotes combustion in other materials, thereby causing fire either of itself or through the release of oxygen or other gases.

**Physical hazard:** a chemical that it is a combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive) or water-reactive.

**Pyrophoric:** a chemical that will ignite spontaneously in air at a temperature of 130 deg. F. or below.

**Specific chemical identity:** the chemical name, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Number, or any other information that reveals the precise chemical designation of the substance.

**Unstable (reactive):** a chemical which in the pure state, or as produced or transported, will vigorously polymerize, decompose, condense, or will become self-reactive under conditions of shocks, pressure or temperature.

**Use:** to package, handle, react, emit, extract, generate as a byproduct, or transfer.

**Water-reactive:** a chemical that reacts with water to release a gas that is either flammable or presents a health hazard.

**Work area:** a room or defined space in a workplace where hazardous chemicals are produced or used, and where employees are present.

**Workplace:** an establishment, job site, or project, at one geographical location containing one or more work areas.